GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1446
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2017
Smuggling of Fertilizers
Kumar Shri P.

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that fertilizers including urea meant for supply to farmers, are being smuggled and sold in the market and if so, the details thereof;

(b)whether the Government has taken any action in the matter;

(c) if so, the number of persons caught during each of the last two years for black marketing of fertilizer; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check black-marketing of fertilizers meant for farmers?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS, SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS

(SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA)

(a) & (d): Madam, Government has declared fertilizer as an essential commodity under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955(ECA) and notified Fertilizer (Control) Order (FCO), 1985 & Fertilizer (Movement Control) Order, 1973 under the EC Act. State Governments have been adequately empowered to ensure selling of fertilizers at MRP besides stopping black marketing/smuggling of fertilizers. State Governments are empowered to conduct search, make seizures and take punitive action against any person violating provisions of FCO, 1985 and Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

During last two years, there is no report of smuggling from any State Government. Similarly, there is no report of black marketing in 2016-17, however in 2015-16, 8 cases were reported by various State Government and appropriate actions had been taken as per the extant provisions of Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

Department of Fertilizers ensures availability of all fertilizers at State level as per requirement projected by DAC&FW in consultation with states/ UTs for each season and distribution within the states is the responsibility of the concerned state governments. The availability is monitored regularly at various levels and there is no shortage of any fertilizer.

Further, following steps are being taken to check black-marketing/ smuggling of fertilizers meant for farmers:
a. The movement of all major subsidized fertilizers is being monitored throughout the country by an on-line web based monitoring system (www.urvarak.co.in) also called as Integrated Fertilizer Monitoring System (iFMS);

b. The State Governments have been advised to sensitize the State Institutional Agencies to coordinate with manufacturers and importers of fertilizers for streamlining the supplies;

c. Department of Fertilizers and Department of Agriculture & Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW) are jointly reviewing fertilizer availability with State Agriculture department through Video Conferences every week. Corrective action, if required, is taken immediately to avoid any hardship to farmers;

d. Fertilizer companies are required to print Maximum Retail Price (MRP) on the fertilizer bags clearly. Any sale above the printed MRP is punishable under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955;

e. State Governments as enforcement agencies are adequately empowered to check the irregularities.

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